

The smell of smoke filled the air, cries of pain and despair drowning out almost all other noise.

“Even?!” a female voice cried out in an attempt to be heard. “Where are you?”

Saiy’incee’Pirsn stood in the middle of a wide road, slightly dazed, and with tears stains tracing a line from her bright red eyes down her cheeks. A loud crack startled Yin, causing her to jump. Turning her head, she was just in time to see the stone wall of a building come crumbling down, burying a wounded bystander beneath its weight. If she had any tears left, Yin would have wept.

The young chiss couldn’t comprehend why this was happening, the people here had never done anything wrong. Sure there were some people that got into trouble from time to time, but nothing that would warrant getting caught up in something like this.

Yin clenched her fists and wiped the dried tears from her cheek, doing little more than smudging the soot on her cerulean face. She didn’t even notice the half moons biting into her palms.

Taking a shaky step, she pushed herself forward. She had to stay strong and find Even.

Slowly moving through the rubble filled street, Yin scanned for any sign of her brother Cliwe’ve’nmaerma. *He’s just a child, please let him be safe*, she pled.

Yin made her way through the once beautiful streets of the city she called home, stepping over rubble and past injured civilians, moaning on the ground. She glanced at every face she passed, praying it wasn’t Even. Every step she took brought her more strength, she was making her way away from the worst of the destruction.

“Yin?” a voice croaked.

The Chiss stopped mid step, gently her foot lowered back down, afraid that she was imagining the voice and that any sudden movement would break the illusion. As she turned her head Yin realized that this was no illusion. Her breath caught in her throat.

An 14 year old Chiss stood half in the shadow of a building, leaning against the wall for support. Cuts, bruises and blood covered his face.

Yin’s jet black, messy bun of hair bounced as she closed the distance between the two of them. She threw her arms around Even.

“I was so worried about you! We have to get somewhere safe.” Suddenly Yin realized that her brother wasn’t reciprocating her hug. She took a step back, keeping her hands on his shoulders.

“Even, what’s wrong?”

The female Chiss was so excited to see her brother alive, she hadn't noticed his hand clutched to his bloody side. Gently she peeled his hand away to reveal a fresh wound, a cauterized gash across his side.

"W...who...who did this to you? **Why** did they do this?!" Yin demanded. "Oh, Even."

"He went this way!" a voice cried out. Suddenly a group of soldiers ran out of an alleyway led by a pair of cloaked figures, ruby coloured lightsabers drawn.

"Run," Even whispered. It took all of his strength to say that much. "Get... out... of here."

Yin shook her head, the dirt on her face began to smudge, she had found a reserve of tears and the dam had broken. She could hear the group's footsteps coming their way and anger overtook her. Yin placed herself between Even and his pursuers, legs spread wide, she stood as an immovable object. Her eyes were full of defiance.

The hooded figure in the lead let out a deep baritone chuckle.

"Can't you see he's just a child? Leave him be!" She pled. The laughter cut abruptly.

"Move!" The figure raised his hand, as if grabbing an invisible object in the air.

"He's done nothing wrong!" Yin stood her ground, they were going to have to go through her to get Even, and she wasn't going anywhere.

The figure whipped his hand to the side and suddenly Yin felt weightless. The world turned on its side and began to blur.

Crack.

Yin collided with a wall, absorbing the blow with the side of her face. Upon landing on the ground, Yin crumpled. Her world was getting fuzzier and fuzzier, the lights were dimming. As she fought for consciousness she could make out the blurred shapes of her attackers dragging something down the street. And then there was only darkness.

Yin slowly came to. It was much brighter than it should be. Yin was laying still but for some reason the world around her was moving.

"She's coming to!" a man yelled.

She had been captured! Yin began jerking around, unable to move despite her best efforts.

"Where is he? What have you done with my brother?" Yin demanded as she attempted to thrash around. She had been restrained on a makeshift gurney.

"Shh, it's okay. Try not to move too much, you're badly injured," the man tried to sooth her. "What's the last thing you remember?"

"Where's my brother?!"

"I'm sorry, you were alone when we found you. Those damn Sith, or Jedi, or whatever the frak those damn guys were must have taken or killed him."

Yin felt the fight leave her. She had always done her best to protect her little brother, but just like that he was gone. She didn't want to admit it, but she knew it was true.

"Why?" was all she was able to say, a barely audible whisper.

The man pushing her gurney stopped, after a moment's pause he spoke.

"We...don't exactly know. From what we *do* know, a group of those Force users were looking for some of their own that were hiding here. Gorram destroyed near half the city in the process. The people here, the ones that survived that is, will spend the rest of their lives rebuilding." The sorrow snuck into his voice.

"Just leave me to die then."

A soft smile touched the Kiffar man's face as it finally came into focus for Yin. There was a kindness in his soulful green eyes.

"Your injuries may be bad, but there not that bad. Don't worry, we'll have you patched up in no time." His positivity was slightly infectious. "They call me Radio, what's your name?"

"Saiy'incee'Pirsn," she spoke, some of her vigor returning.

"Well it's nice to meet you." He began pushing the gurney again. "Listen, once we get you back on your feet, there's someone I think you should meet. He's been traveling the galaxy helping people affected by these careless people."

Yin nodded her head, how many others in the galaxy could there possibly be in the same situation as her? She started tuning out the world around her. Yin was lost in her own thoughts of the future, and how she would avenge her brother.

"Yup, I think you and Rath will get along just fine."